POLARIS
CHARTER ACADEMY

WHERE LEARNING HAS NO BOUNDARIES

BOARD MEETING MINUTES			
Date	April 20, 2026	**Time**	6:30pm
Location	Polaris Charter Academy, 620 North Sawyer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois		

Board Members in Attendance	Board Members Absent
• Roel Vivit—Chair • Antonio Gonzalez—Vice Chair • Wendy Silva—Secretary & Parent Rep • Ayanna Berry • Yaa Boakye • Bennett Brenton • Luis Polanco Rodriguez • Michelle Navarre—Ex Officio	• Mike Davison—Treasurer • Sam Bottum
School Staff in Attendance	**Guests in Attendance**
• Francesca Peck • Lissette Sanchez • John Lydon • Elizabeth Whiting	• Ryan Maxwell • Montoya Lashley

Call to Order

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Polaris Charter Academy was called to order by the Chair at **6:34pm**. A quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEM: Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes	
Discussion	The **February** meeting minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. Corrections noted: N/A
Motion	Antonio moved to approve the minutes with the corrections noted. Luis seconded the motion.
Vote	In Favor: Unanimous “Aye” Opposed: None Motion carried, and minutes approved.

AGENDA ITEM: Public Comments
Open space for public comment was provided. No one was present and public comments were neither presented at the meeting nor submitted in advance.

AGENDA ITEM: Board Member Review	
Discussion	Presenter(s): Luis Polanco Rodriguez presented two board candidates recommended by the governance committee. Luis shared the process of candidates meeting with governance committee members and Polaris staff and students. Application and resumes were shared in the board packet for board member review.
Motion	Antonio moved to approve the candidacy of Ryan Maxwell. Yaa seconded. Roel moved to approve the candidacy of Montoya Lashley. Yaa seconded.
Vote	In Favor: Unanimous "Aye" for Ryan Maxwell. Unanimous "Aye" for Montoya Lashley. Opposed: None Motion carried

AGENDA ITEM: State of the School	
Discussion	Presenter(s): Michelle Navarre, Francesca Peck, John Lydon Michelle and Francesca shared the implementation of Project CAFE that provides feedback to teachers to use for reflection on their instruction. Data informs teachers who (teacher vs students) is doing all the talking and carrying the cognitive lift. This is a tool to support the Mastery of Knowledge and Skills targets by pushing conversations and coaching with teachers around questioning. CPS visited Polaris for the CWIP site visit and commented on the strength of instruction as scored on their rigor walk tool across many of the classrooms they observed. Francesca reported Polaris concluded the Illinois Assessment of Readiness and Illinois Science Assessment testing. Positive administration this year with minimal make-up testing. John reported Access Testing also has moved forward.

	In preparation for charter renewal next year, Global Psychological will conduct pre-audits for multilingual learners and special education to identify any program gaps to address. Bloomwell to come to the next meeting to share in-depth the report on the recruitment efforts and trends. Polaris has advanced to the semifinalist round on April 22nd for the Invest for Kids grant. CSP grant update: 2 passenger vans and outdoor classrooms ordered. In process working with Proof, the vendor for website updating and rebranding to be used for parent recruitment. School staff Invited all Chicago Board of Education board members to visit and learn about Polaris. 4 board members responded and visited. 99% on time for compliance. The school completed the audit and was approved for delivering PD. Safety drills have been completed. Board to review the updated Polaris Bullying and Biased Based Behavior Prevention Policy. Tammy Vance brought a group from Polaris to Springfield to advocate for charter schools. Polaris along with Chicago charter schools received a FOIA request from a reporter for vendors, payroll, mortgage/lease agreement, loan documents, and bank statements. School staff has responded and will be submitting requested information within the allowed extension period.
Motion	- N/A
Vote	- N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Development Committee	
Discussion	Presenter(s): Roel Vivit reviewed the development dashboard and highlighted the latest major gifts donation from the Hoaglund Charitable Fund. Elizabeth Whiting shared details on the April 30th spring benefit. Board members and school staff have been contributing raffle items and securing sponsorships. Priority is building attendance for the event.
Motion	- N/A

Vote	- N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Finance & Operations Committee	
Discussion	Presenter(s): Lissette Sanchez presented the board finance summary. There is currently a deficit operating budget with 3.16 months of cash on hand. Michelle explained the increase in SPED personnel, chromebook purchase needed for testing, and the unexpected classroom abatement.
Motion	- N/A
Vote	- N/A

AGENDA ITEM: Governance Committee	
Discussion	Presenter(s): Luis Polanco Rodriguez communicated plans to continue to build the board pipeline and membership. FOIA and OMA training has been completed for 2026. A reminder was given for 2026 board training requirements. The governance committee will send a board contact form to ensure updated information.
Motion	- N/A
Vote	- N/A

CALL TO CLOSE	
Motion	There being no further business, Luis motioned to close the meeting. Ryan seconded.
Vote	In Favor: Unanimous “Aye” Opposed: None Motion carried, meeting adjourned at **8:47 pm**.